N E W S   R E L E A S E
B U R E A U   O F   L A B O R   S T A T I S T I C S
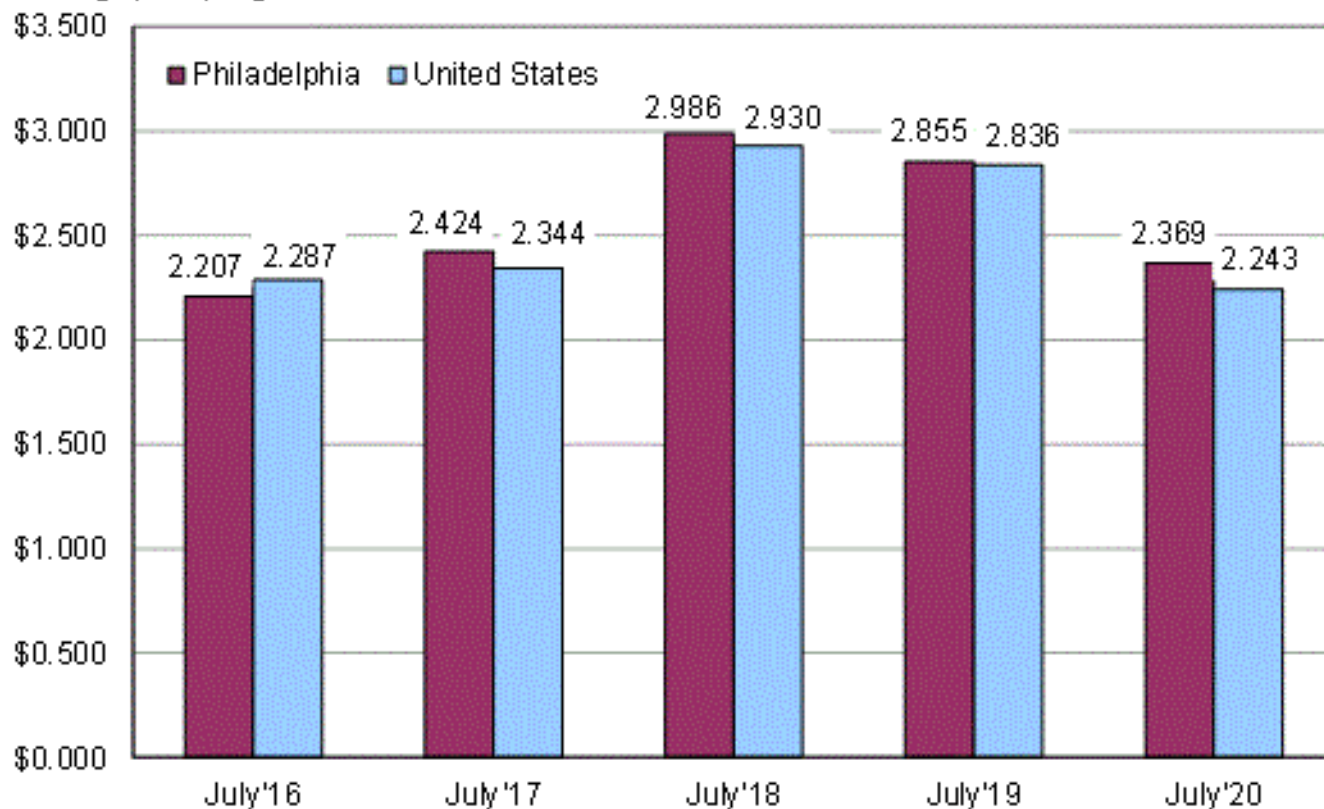U . S .   D E P A R T M E N T   O F   L A B O R

BLS

Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – July 2020

Gasoline prices averaged $2.369 per gallon in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area in July 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were 17.0 percent lower than last July prices when they averaged $2.855 per gallon. Philadelphia-area households paid an average of 15.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in July 2020, close to the average of 15.6 cents in July 2019. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at $1.088 per therm in July was 9.3 percent lower than its price of $1.199 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At $2.369 per gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was 5.6 percent higher than the national average of $2.243 per gallon in July 2020. From 2016 to 2019, local and national prices for gasoline in July differed by 3.5 percent or less. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, July 2016–July 2020

Average price per gallon

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.5 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in July 2020 was 13.1 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last July, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 11.4 percent higher than the nation. From 2016 to 2018, prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for electricity in July exceeded the U.S. average by 7.0 percent or more. (See chart 2.)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, July 2016-July 2020
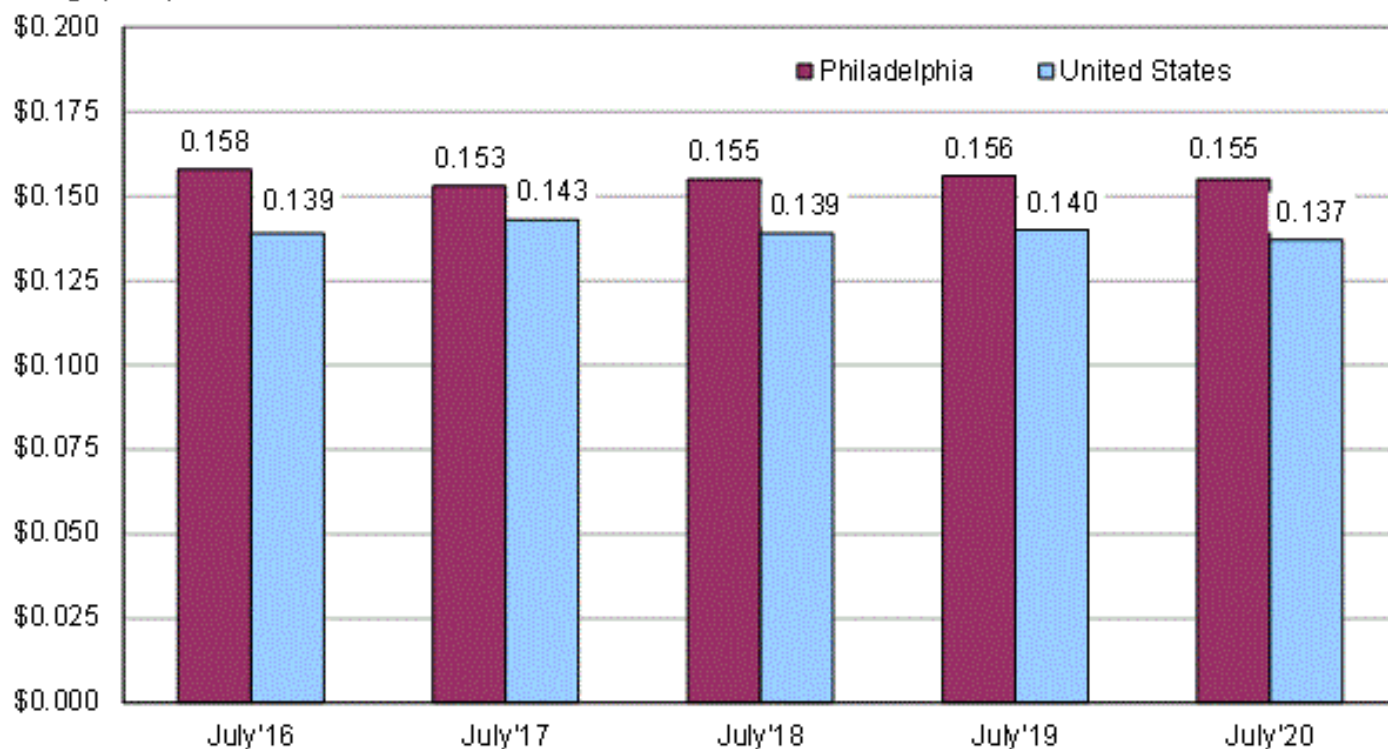
Average price per kilowatt-hour

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
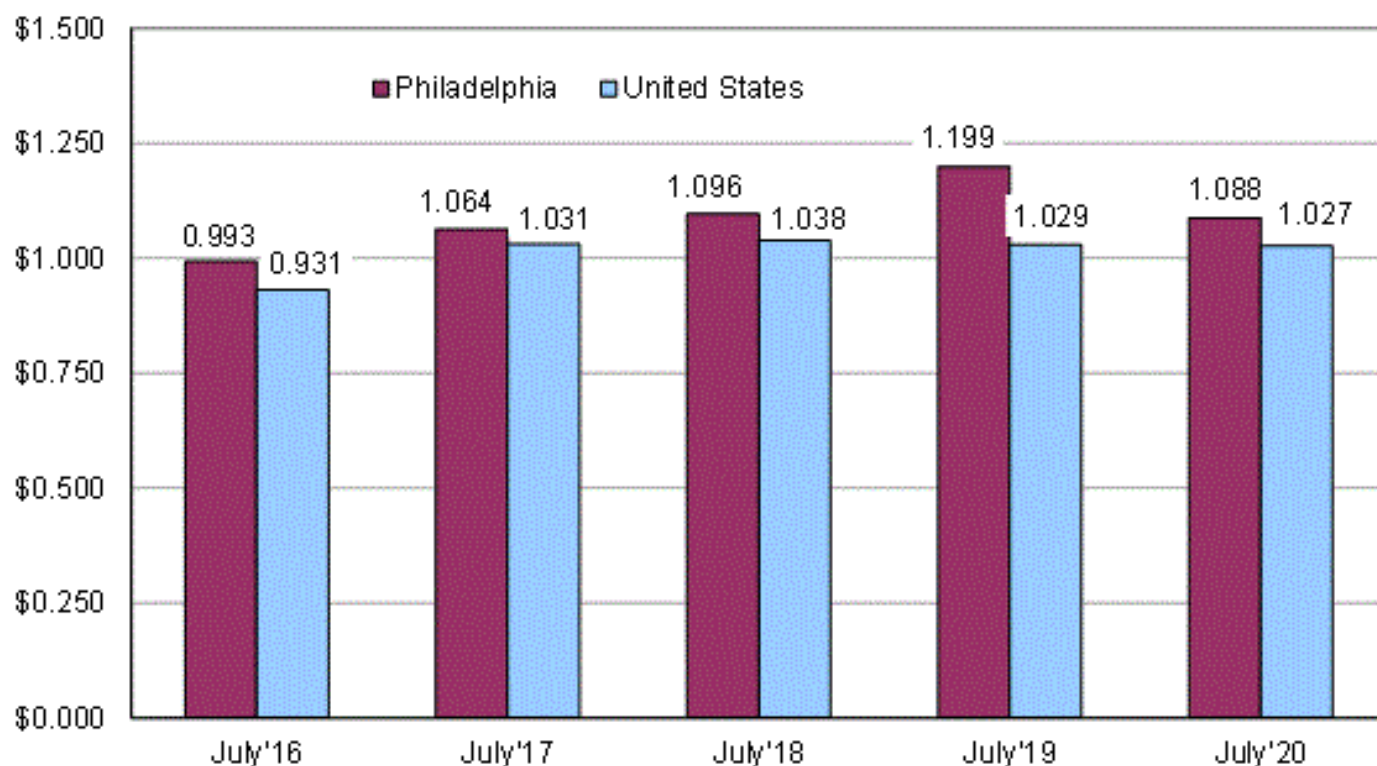
The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was $1.088 per therm in July 2020, 5.9 percent higher than the national average of $1.027 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in July for the previous four years, ranging from 3.2 to 16.5 percent higher. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, July 2016-July 2020

Average price per therm

Philadelphia: July'16 0.993, July'17 1.064, July'18 1.096, July'19 1.199, July'20 1.088

United States: July'16 0.931, July'17 1.031, July'18 1.038, July'19 1.029, July'20 1.027

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

_____

The Consumer Price Index for August 2020 is scheduled to be released on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

The **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Core Based Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, July 2019-July 2020, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States
2019						
July	$2.855	$2.836	$0.156	$0.140	$1.199	$1.029
August	2.746	2.716	0.155	0.139	1.199	1.034
September..	2.668	2.694	0.154	0.139	1.173	1.019
October...	2.637	2.741	0.152	0.136	1.184	1.041
November...	2.674	2.687	0.152	0.133	1.189	1.058
December...	2.620	2.652	0.153	0.133	1.120	1.057
2020						
January...	2.660	2.631	0.153	0.134	1.110	1.066
February	2.538	2.530	0.154	0.134	1.097	1.050
March	2.430	2.334	0.153	0.134	1.110	1.034
April	2.148	1.946	0.152	0.133	1.112	1.028
May..	2.086	1.946	0.151	0.134	1.115	1.037
June..	2.244	2.141	0.154	0.137	1.088	1.037
July	2.369	2.243	0.155	0.137	1.088	1.027